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South Dakota Smarter Balanced (SBAC)

English Language Arts Practice Tests

for Grade 5

A Complete Guide to Building Math Mastery and Excelling on the Test



- Real Practice. Real Results.
- Small Steps, Big Gains!
- Practice Smart. Score Higher:
- Detailed Explanations
- Practice
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Reza Nazari

Grade 5 · South Dakota · Smarter Balanced

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English Language Arts (ELA)
Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for Smarter Balanced Preparation and Academic Confidence

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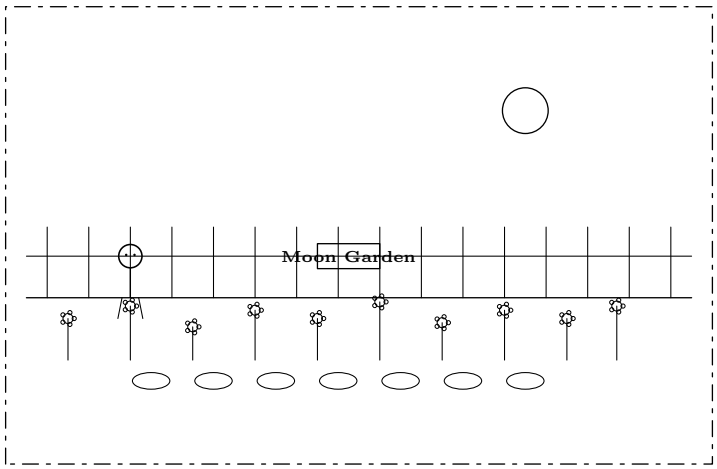
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Read the passage below. Then answer questions 1–8.

The Moon Garden at Maple School



1 Behind Maple School sits a small garden that can be easy to overlook in full daylight. Its stones are pale, its leaves are silver-green, and most of its flowers are white or cream. Yet when evening settles in, the garden seems to transform. The petals glow softly in the moonlight, and the whole space takes on a calm brightness that feels almost surprising.

2 Students named it the Moon Garden after learning that some plants are easiest to notice at dusk or even after sunset. Their teacher, Mrs. Hale, wanted the class to create a space that would not depend on bright daytime color. Instead of competing with the bold flower beds near the playground, this garden would reward people who slowed down and looked closely.

3 The class began by choosing pale plants, including white daisies, lamb's-ear, and other leaves that could catch dim light. Then they added smooth stepping-stones and a wooden sign. Some students sketched careful plans to show where each plant should go. Others dug holes, carried watering cans, and spread mulch to protect the young roots.

Conflict? Win the read.
Scan Me

4 A few weeks later, the Moon Garden began to bloom. One evening, students returned with their families and watched the pale flowers stand out against the darkening sky. They heard crickets nearby and felt cool air moving through the leaves. Nothing about the garden was loud or flashy. Its beauty came from quiet details that became clearer as daylight faded.

5 Before long, the space became more than a garden. Students used it for quiet observation, sketching flowers in science notebooks, writing poems about moonlight, and comparing it with the brighter butterfly garden by the fence. They discovered that a place did not need bold color or constant activity to feel interesting and full of life.

6 Mrs. Hale says the Moon Garden reminds students to notice beauty that can be easy to miss. On busy days, people often hurry past small, quiet things. In the softer evening light, however, the garden encourages students to pause, look closely, and see the world with greater attention.

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1) What is the **central idea** of the article?

(A) White flowers are the only flowers worth planting.
(B) Evening is the best time for every school activity.
(C) Maple School built a special garden that helps students notice quiet beauty and learn in a new way.
(D) The playground garden is more colorful than the Moon Garden.

Use the article "The Moon Garden at Maple School" to answer this question.

2) What does the word *glow* mean as it is used in paragraph 1?

(A) To grow taller
(B) To shine softly
(C) To fall quickly
(D) To smell sweet

Use the article "The Moon Garden at Maple School" to answer this question.

3) Why does the author include the details in paragraph 3?

(A) To prove that gardens are difficult to care for
(B) To compare flowers with stepping-stones
(C) To explain the steps the students used to build the garden
(D) To show that white flowers grow fastest

Use the article "The Moon Garden at Maple School" to answer this question.

4) How is the article mainly organized?

(A) By telling a make-believe story about the moon
(B) By showing how the garden was created and what students learned from it
(C) By listing many kinds of insects
(D) By comparing two different schools

Use the article "The Moon Garden at Maple School" to answer this question.

Icy start? Scan for mugs. Scan Me

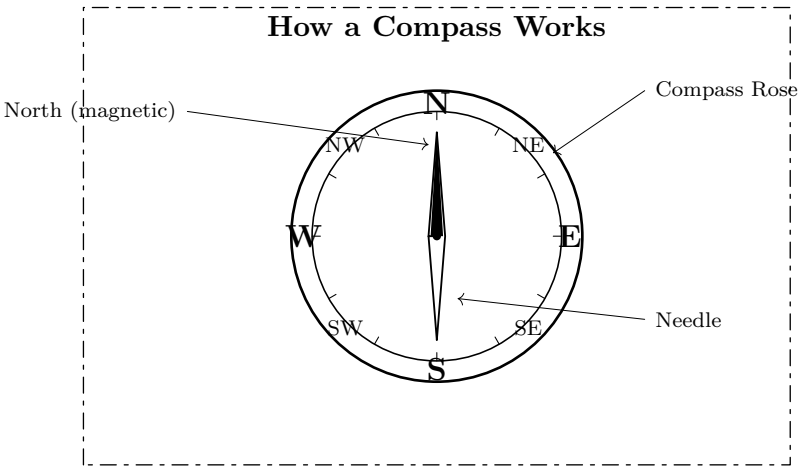
Use both "The Pocket of Seeds" and "Little Seeds" to answer this question.

19) What important idea is found in both the story and the poem?

(A) Seed packets are hard to open.
(B) Wildflowers grow faster than all other plants.
(C) Only spring gardens are worth growing.
(D) Big change can begin in quiet, small ways.

Read the passage below. Then answer questions 20–26.

How a Compass Helps



1 When people hike along a trail or explore an unfamiliar place, they need a reliable way to know which direction they are traveling. One helpful tool for this is a compass. Small enough to fit in a pocket, a compass can help a person identify north, south, east, and west.

2 Inside a compass is a needle that moves freely. The needle points north because it reacts to Earth like a tiny magnet. Once a person knows where north is, the other directions become much easier to determine.

Brisk robots? Raise the bar.
Scan Me

3 A compass can help in many situations. Hikers may use one on forest trails, campers may use one while reading a map, and students may use compasses during outdoor science lessons to practice finding directions around the schoolyard. These examples show that the tool is useful in both serious travel and everyday learning.

4 A compass works best when it is held flat and kept away from metal objects or other items that might affect the needle. If the needle is free to move, it can point correctly. Then the user can turn until the compass lines up with the direction he or she wants to travel.

5 Today, many people depend on phones and other devices for directions. Even so, a compass remains useful because it does not need a battery or signal to work. It is a simple tool, but it can be very dependable when someone is outdoors and needs clear direction.

6 Learning to use a compass can help people feel more prepared and confident outdoors. It is one more way to understand how direction works in the world around us. A tiny needle, when used well, can point the way toward a big adventure.

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20) What is the **central idea** of the article?

(A) Only hikers need to know directions.
(B) Phones are always better than maps.
(C) Needles are the most important part of every tool.
(D) A compass is a useful tool that helps people find directions.

Use the article "How a Compass Helps" to answer this question.

21) What does the word *dependable* mean as it is used in paragraph 5?

(A) Bright and shiny
(B) Very expensive
(C) Difficult to carry
(D) Able to be trusted

Use the article "How a Compass Helps" to answer this question.

22) Why does the author include the information in paragraph 3?

(A) To show that maps are not useful
(B) To compare compasses with clocks
(C) To explain how to build a trail
(D) To give examples of times when people can use a compass

Use the article "How a Compass Helps" to answer this question.

23) Which detail best supports the idea that a compass is simple but useful?

(A) The needle reacts to Earth.
(B) A compass does not need a battery.
(C) Campers may use one with a map.
(D) A compass is small enough to fit in a pocket.

Use the article "How a Compass Helps" to answer this question.



Icy keys?
Hear the beat.
Scan Me